ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
No formal qualifications are required. However, all modules are taught at university level and students should be able to read, write and speak English fluently. Students new to psychology will benefit from undertaking some preparatory reading as detailed below.

AIMS
To review psychological theory that describes and explains human learning in adulthood and to explore ways in which such theory may be applied to support learning in a range of settings.

OBJECTIVES
- Locate the question of how we learn within the discipline of psychology.
- Explain and evaluate the principle theories which can contribute to our understanding of ‘how we learn’.
- Explore the range of factors within the learner and their environment that affect learning.
- Discuss ways in which the psychological perspective on learning may be applied in practice, particularly in professional settings.
- Give an overview of the research methods used within psychology including a basic evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of each.
• Identify the ethical issues when conducting research (with particular reference to harm) and the issues that arise when trying to generalise results (for example across cultures).
• Support students to take part in the assessment process.
• Support and develop students’ study skills, including note taking and essay writing.
• Build students’ confidence in presenting their own ideas and in critical thinking.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
On successful completion of this course you will be able to:

• Identify key principles from behavioural, cognitive and humanistic schools of psychology which are useful in explaining ‘how we learn’ and give examples of these principles in action in a range of settings.
• Describe various forms of individual difference in learning and discuss the implications for learners and teachers.
• Demonstrate an understanding of the development of ideas within this field, and of contemporary approaches and issues.
• Describe, discuss and evaluate a range of research methodologies that might be appropriate to the study of psychology (identifying strengths and weaknesses of core methodologies, including both qualitative as well as quantitative approaches).
• Identify the ethical issues when conducting psychological research (with particular consideration of harm).
• Demonstrate an appropriate awareness of cultural considerations in the evaluation of theory and research.
• Illustrate the practical applications of research findings.
• Think critically about the subjects covered.
• Present your own ideas about issues addressed on the course.
• Discuss and implement a range of strategies to support your learning.
• Successfully plan and write essays or other assignments which have been set to support your learning on this course.

CONTENT
During the course we are likely to address most of the following topics:

• Principles from humanistic psychology that explain aspects of learning (i.e. concern for human growth and the necessary conditions for this to occur).
• Principles from cognitive psychology that explain aspects of learning (e.g. memory, schemas.
• and theories of learning).
• Principles from behavioural psychology that explain aspects of learning.
• Applications of these principles to real life situations.
• Student motivation, its effects on learning and how it can be enhanced.
• Other features of individual differences that may be relevant to learning (e.g. intelligence,
  personality and affective factors, sociocultural factors, skills students bring with them for
  learning and problem-solving,).
• Group dynamics and their effect on both learner and teachers.
• Learning styles: an overview of theories and a more in-depth evaluation and application of one
  or two theories.

It is expected that 75% of the syllabus content will be covered.

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS
A range of teaching methods may be used e.g. short lectures on the area being studied -
students are encouraged to ask questions and discuss points throughout. There will also be
small group exercises, sometimes with feedback to the large group to provide an
opportunity for clarification of ideas and discussion. Other methods may include: videos,
experiments, student presentations, discussion of published articles, etc. Students will be
given help with study skills.

Credit points are used to summarise and describe the amount of learning taking place for a
given module. For a 15 credit module this equates to 150 hours, most of which is comprised
of independent learning. For this module 22 hours would be delivered in the classroom.

Students MUST build on their learning in class by undertaking guided independent study
including appropriate reading and research. Further details can be found in the appropriate
Course Handbook as detailed below.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT
The assessment process gives students important opportunities to learn, to check their
learning and to discuss their progress with the tutor. Students will be expected to prepare
two pieces of coursework for assessment, one of which will be written under timed
conditions in the classroom. The other one will be completed outside the class and may
take a variety of forms such as essays, case studies, reports and possibly class presentations.
Each of these pieces will be 1,500 words in length (or the equivalent). You are encouraged
to discuss with your tutor the particular topics and the type of assignment you would like to
focus on in your assessments. It may be possible to accommodate your personal interests
within the syllabus.

Each piece of assessment is worth 50% of the total module mark. To pass the module
students must achieve a mark of 40% overall with at least 40% in the timed test.
Dates of timed assessments:
1st Timed Essay:
 w/b 26th February 2018

Regulations regarding assessment are detailed in the appropriate *Course Handbook*, which will be circulated electronically prior to the course start date. Students are strongly advised to read the *Course Handbook* prior to commencing their studies.

The course is part of the Certificate of Higher Education in Psychology. If the course is completed successfully, 15 credit points will be awarded, which may be transferred to some degree courses.

Students who complete the core modules on the Certificate of Higher Education in Psychology may be considered for entry onto the second year of Birkbeck’s part-time BSc Psychology programme. For more information see: [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/study/2017/certificates/programmes/UEHPSYCH/](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/study/2017/certificates/programmes/UEHPSYCH/)

READING

This reading list offers a selection of books which are particularly appropriate for this module. It is not expected that students will read them all. Weekly readings will be provided by your course lecturer, who will also recommend other reading during the course.

Preparatory reading
If this is the first course you have taken in psychology you will find it useful to read an introductory text that outlines the main schools of thought within psychology and the main approaches to research methods. Particularly useful are:


Please note: Psychology books are frequently revised and updated. Any recent edition would be suitable to use.

STUDENT SERVICES
The Student Advice Centre is located on the ground floor of the main Birkbeck building on Malet Street (entry via Torrington Square).

For more information about Birkbeck’s range of student support services visit: [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-services/](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-services/)

LIBRARY AND STUDY SKILLS RESOURCES
Once you have your ID card, you may use the Birkbeck library and associated resources. You may find the following web links helpful:

- For information on how best to access the resources available for psychology students through Birkbeck College Library, students may wish to work through the tutorial available at http://www.bbk.ac.uk/lib/life/
- For specific guidance for psychologists and psychology students on getting the best out the internet go to: http://www.vtstutorials.co.uk/ - and search for ‘Psychology’

Please refer to the Course Handbook for more information.

COURSE EVALUATION
During the course students will be asked to complete an evaluation form which gives the opportunity to provide feedback on all aspects of their learning.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT
It is important you are clear which award the module you are enrolled on counts towards. Our website provides an overview of each Certificate award so you can decide which best suits your needs: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/study/2017/certificates/subject/psychology/

Information is available on core and option modules for each Certificate. Your choice of subsequent modules you take should be informed by this information. Modules can be taken in any order although it is recommended that certain core modules are taken first. Not all core modules have to be taken in the same year.

If you need further advice you can contact the department by telephone on 0207 631 6669 or by e-mail: psychologycert@bbk.ac.uk

Revised August 2017